

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 1-9 and 11-19. Claim 10, which the Examiner indicated contained allowable subject matter, has been rewritten in independent form by amending claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 10. Accordingly, claim 10 has been canceled. In addition, claims 1-9 and 11-19 have been amended to improve their form or delete reference numerals. The specification has also been amended to include headings as requested by the Examiner and the cross reference to related applications. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

The Examiner objected to the disclosure as missing headings. In response, Applicants have amended the specification to incorporate such headings, which it is respectfully submitted overcomes the objection of the Examiner on the basis of this informality.

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 11-15 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Noritake U.S. Patent No. 4,353,873*. The Examiner has also indicated, however, that claim 10 contains allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten in

independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, without conceding the propriety of the rejections and in order to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 10 and have canceled claim 10. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended, and claims 2-9 and 11-19, which depend directly or indirectly on claim 1, as amended, are now in condition for allowance.

In summary, claim 1 has been amended, and claim 10 has been canceled. The specification has also been amended. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile-transmission to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 7, 2006.

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